

# *What's at Stake in the 2007 Farm Bill?*

**Speaker:**

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# Welcome!



- Overview of the Farm Bill
- Various Perspectives
- Discussion/Questions



# Objectives



- Understand the key components of the Farm Bill 2007
- Understand what nutrition and community food issues are addressed through the farm bill including:
  - Hunger and food stamps
  - Access to fresh fruit & vegetables and obesity prevention
  - Access to farmers markets
  - Preservation of local farms
- Understand Nutrition vs. Hunger advocates different points of view

# Why Is This Important?



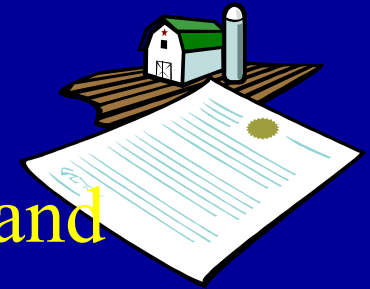
- Understanding the Farm Bill will help anyone who wants:
  - better food, nutrition, and farm policy
  - everyone to have access to healthy, affordable, and local food
  - to protect and provide opportunities for small farmers

# Farm Bill Overview



- Current Farm Bill is the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002
- Omnibus federal legislation authorizing and guiding our agriculture, rural development, soil and water conservation, and domestic food and foreign aid programs.
- The Farm Bill is the dominant piece of legislation that affects farm and food policy in the U.S and it will be revised by congress in 2007.
- ~\$100 billion every year
- In 2005, \$100.5 billion in agricultural programs representing less than 1% of total federal spending (Source: Senator Ken Salazar)

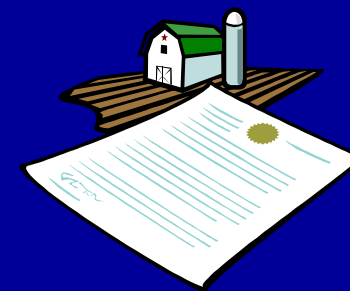
# Farm Bill Goals



- Support the production of reliable, safe, and affordable supply of food and fiber
- Promote stewardship of land and water resources
- Facilitate access to American farm products here and abroad
- Encourage economic and infrastructure developments in rural America
- Ensure continued research to maintain an efficient and innovative agriculture and food sector
- Provide persons in need with access to food and an improved diet

Source: USDA

# Food & Nutrition in the Farm Bill



- The 2002 Farm Bill has several titles that directly and indirectly impact food and nutrition
- Inclusion of food and nutrition in the Farm Bill is not new:
  - 1960s – food aid
  - 1973 Food Stamp Program
  - 1977 USDA designated the lead agency for federal human nutrition research

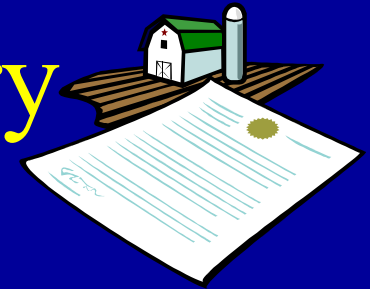
Source: Journal of American Dietetic Association Sept 2006

# Ten Titles



Title I	Commodities
Title II	Conservation
Title III	Trade
Title IV	Nutrition
Title V	Credit
Title VI	Rural Development
Title VII	Research
Title VIII	Forestry
Title IX	Energy
Title X	Miscellaneous

# Mandatory vs. Discretionary



- **Mandatory Programs for Agriculture**
  - Typically multi-year programs
  - Commodity & Food Stamps mandatory spending categories.
  - Provided up front when the farm bill is passed
- **Discretionary Programs for Agriculture**
  - Programs and funding are reviewed every year
  - Agency salaries and expenses and research funding are major discretionary spending categories
  - Funding typically is provided one year at a time in an annual appropriations bill

# Title I - Commodities

- Through May 2004 = \$15 billion
- Approx. \$20 billion annually on subsidies
- Loan rates, Direct Payments and Target Prices for Covered Commodities:
  - corn, sorghum, barley, oats, wheat, soybeans, minor oilseeds, cotton, rice



# Title I – Commodities (cont'd)

- Milk Price Support Program
- National Dairy Program
- Peanuts and sugar quotas
- Money loans or deficiency payments
  - wool, mohair, honey, apples, and pulse crops (chickpeas, lentils, dry peas)
- Specialty Crop Purchases
  - amaranth, buckwheat, chufa, herbs, wildflowers, floriculture, teff, mushrooms, maple sugar



In 2005, about 23% went to farm commodity programs dealing with corn, wheat, barley, sunflower, other crops and commodities.

# Title II – Conservation



- \$17.1 billion
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
- Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)
- Farmland Protection Program (FPP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Water Conservation Program
- Conservation Security Program (CSP)
- Conservation Program
- Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program
- Underserved States
- Desert Terminal Lakes

# Title III – Trade



- Cost \$1.14 Billion
- Market Access Program (MAP)
- Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC)
- Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program (FMD)
- Food for Progress
- Global Food for Education Initiative

# Title IV - Nutrition

- Total Cost \$6.4 billion



## Key Provisions

- Food Stamp Program benefits
- Food Stamp Program simplification and administrative reforms
- Commodity distribution programs
- Community food security provisions
- Miscellaneous nutrition program provisions

# Title IV - Nutrition



- Benefits for legal immigrants who have lived in the United States for at least 5 years.
- Benefits for legal immigrant children and disabled individuals without minimum residency requirements.
- Provides five months of transitional benefits for households leaving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).
- Simplified and streamlined the food stamp program (i.e. application process)
- Reformed and streamlined the food stamp program quality control system.

# Title IV – Nutrition (cont'd)



- Increased funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Provides commodities to food banks and soup kitchens and expands other commodity distribution programs.
- Provides an increase in funding for both the Senior and WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs.
- Provides additional commodities for the school lunch program including a pilot for free fresh fruits and vegetables in schools.

In 2005 52% of Farm Bill funding went to nutrition programs such as food stamps, children nutrition programs, and farmers markets programs

# Nutrition Programs **Not** in the Farm Bill



- Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act
  - Farm to School
  - Child Nutrition Programs (School Breakfast, School Lunch, Summer Food)
  - WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children)

# Title V - Credit



- USDA farm lending programs
- Provides access to USDA farm credit programs for beginning farmers and ranchers.
- USDA may lending for down payment loans
- Established a pilot program to encourage beginning farmers to be able to purchase farms on a land contract basis.

# Title VI – Rural Development



- \$1.03 Billion
- Rural Local Television Broadcast Signal Loan Guarantees
- Broadband Service in Rural Areas
- Value-Added Agricultural Market Development Grants
- Rural Strategic Investment Program
- Rural Business Investment Program
- Funding for Rural Development Backlogs Program
- Rural Firefighters and Emergency Personnel Grant Program

# Title VII – Research



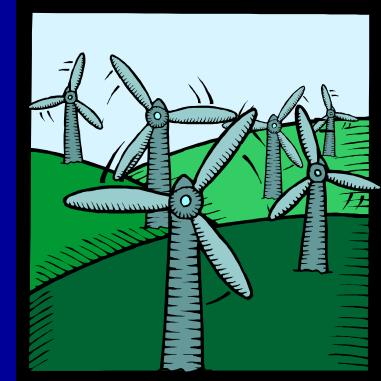
- \$1.3 billion
- Reauthorizes and establishes new agricultural research and extension programs.
- Funding for the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems

# Title VIII - Forestry



- \$100 Million
- Funding committed for a new cost-share program to assist private non-industrial forest landowners in adopting sustainable forest management practices.

# Title IX – Energy



- \$405 million
- CCC Bioenergy Program
- Biobased Product Purchasing Preference
- Biodiesel Fuel Education
- Renewable Energy System & Energy Efficiency Improvements
- Reauthorized Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000

# Title X – Miscellaneous



- **Country of Origin Labeling**
  - For meat, fruits & vegetables, fish and peanuts.
  - For a Commodity to be labeled USA product, it must be born, raised and processed in the United States.
  - Commodities that are ingredients in processed products would not fall under the labeling requirement.
- **Family Farmer Bankruptcy Protection**
  - Extended Chapter 12 Bankruptcy provisions to December 31, 2002.

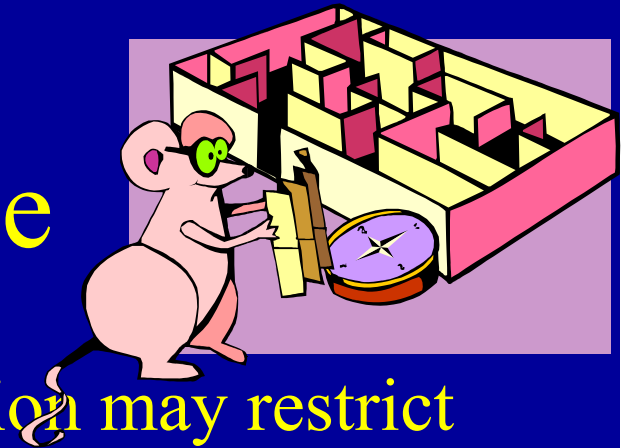


# Reauthorization Timeline



- Reauthorization every 5 years
- In 2005 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) held “2007 Farm Bill Forums” around the country to get public input on priorities for the 2007 Farm Bill
- In 2006 the House and Senate Agriculture Committees began hearings to prepare for Farm Bill reauthorization and launched Web-based tools to solicit public comment.
- Lawmakers and nonprofit groups have hosted and/or will be hosting unofficial “listening sessions.”
- USDA announces its proposal on February 1, 2007
- House aims to have bill drafted by July 2007

# Influences for Change



- World Trade Organization negotiation may restrict U.S. farm subsidies
- Taxpayer concern about high crop subsidy payments
- Federal Budget pressures caused by Iraq, Katrina and tax cuts
- Soaring energy costs affecting food prices
- Diet-related health problems, e.g. obesity
- Homeland security, food security and preparedness issues (post Hurricane Katrina)
- Regional food movement
- Conservation

# House vs. Senate



- Tom Harkin (D-IA): Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee Chairman



- Collin Peterson (D-MN): Incoming House Agriculture Committee Chairman



- Joe Baca, (D-CA): Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry



# Advocates Involved



- Health and nutrition professionals
- Large and small farmers
- International development
- Sustainable agriculturalists
- Public health professionals
- Anti-Hunger groups
- International business
- Energy
- Rural & urban developers
- Environmentalists
- Faith-based organizations
- Conservation groups
- Community food security groups
- Organic Farmers

*and many more....*



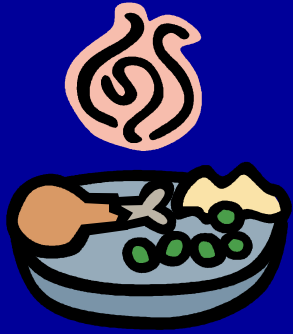
# American Dietetic Association

- Four key policy points:
  - Importance of food assistance programs
    - USDA's food assistance programs must be available to those in need and adequately funded.
  - Nutrition should be a priority
    - Improving the nutritional status of Americans needs to rise in priority in food assistance programs, other food programs, and truly, for all Americans.
  - Nutrition education and research is vital
    - Increased investment in nutrition education and nutrition research is necessary and it must be sustained.
  - The food supply is changing
    - Having up-to-date knowledge of the nutrition composition of the food supply is essential for all of work in food, nutrition and health to bear fruit.



# ADA's Recommendations

- Create a National Institute for Food and Agriculture with \$1 billion of new Federal funding for food, nutrition, agriculture, and environment research and extension.
- Reform the Dietary Guidelines process to make them more valuable and less confusing to consumers. Less frequent issuance of these important findings – once every 10 years.
- Food assistance/Food stamps cover incentives for purchases consistent with the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.
- USDA's food assistance programs must be available to those in need and adequately funded.
- Food security and food safety issues must rise in priority.



# Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)



- Focused on the Food Stamp Program
  - Retain entitlement (mandatory) status
- Focused on overarching, sweeping reforms as well as seemingly smaller changes that would improve certain aspects of the program.
  - Close gaps in coverage
  - Improve adequacy of benefits – increase the minimum benefit to \$25
  - Further simplify the program for client and caseworkers
- Continue to allow choice in food purchases and support healthy choices through nutrition education
- Emphasize the positive aspects of the Food Stamp Program in addition to suggesting improvements to it.

# American Farmland Trust



- Three pillars to support new farm policies:
  - Provide safety net
    - Protection for farmers and ranchers
    - Reward environmental stewardship
      - Green payments
  - Stewardship
    - Conservation of natural resources
  - Create new markets
    - Expanded economic opportunities
    - Nurture entrepreneurship

# Food & Farm Policy Project



- A collaborative of diverse organizations united by the common vision of a more sustainable food and agricultural system for the United States.
  - American Farmland Trust, Community Food Security Coalition, Environmental Defense, and the Northeast-Midwest Institute
- The Project's goal is to advance federal policy reforms that:
  - Enhance economic opportunities for farms, ranches, and rural communities,
  - Reward environmental stewardship,
  - Promote new markets and rural entrepreneurship, and
  - End hunger and increase access to healthy food.

# FFPP's Initiatives



1. Prosperous Farms and Ranches: Renewing American Agriculture
2. Healthy People: Reducing Hunger and Improving Nutrition
3. Vital Communities: Building Rural Businesses and Promoting Entrepreneurship
4. Sustainable Lands: Cultivating Stewardship
5. Diversity and Equity: Advancing Opportunities for All

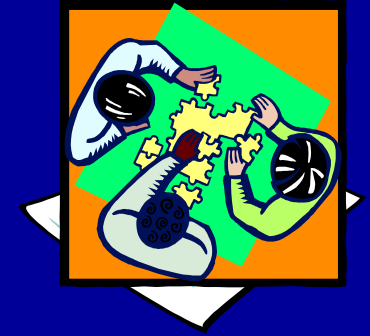
# FFPP – Seeking Balance in the U.S. Farm and Food Policy



Many Washington Groups have already signed this declaration including:

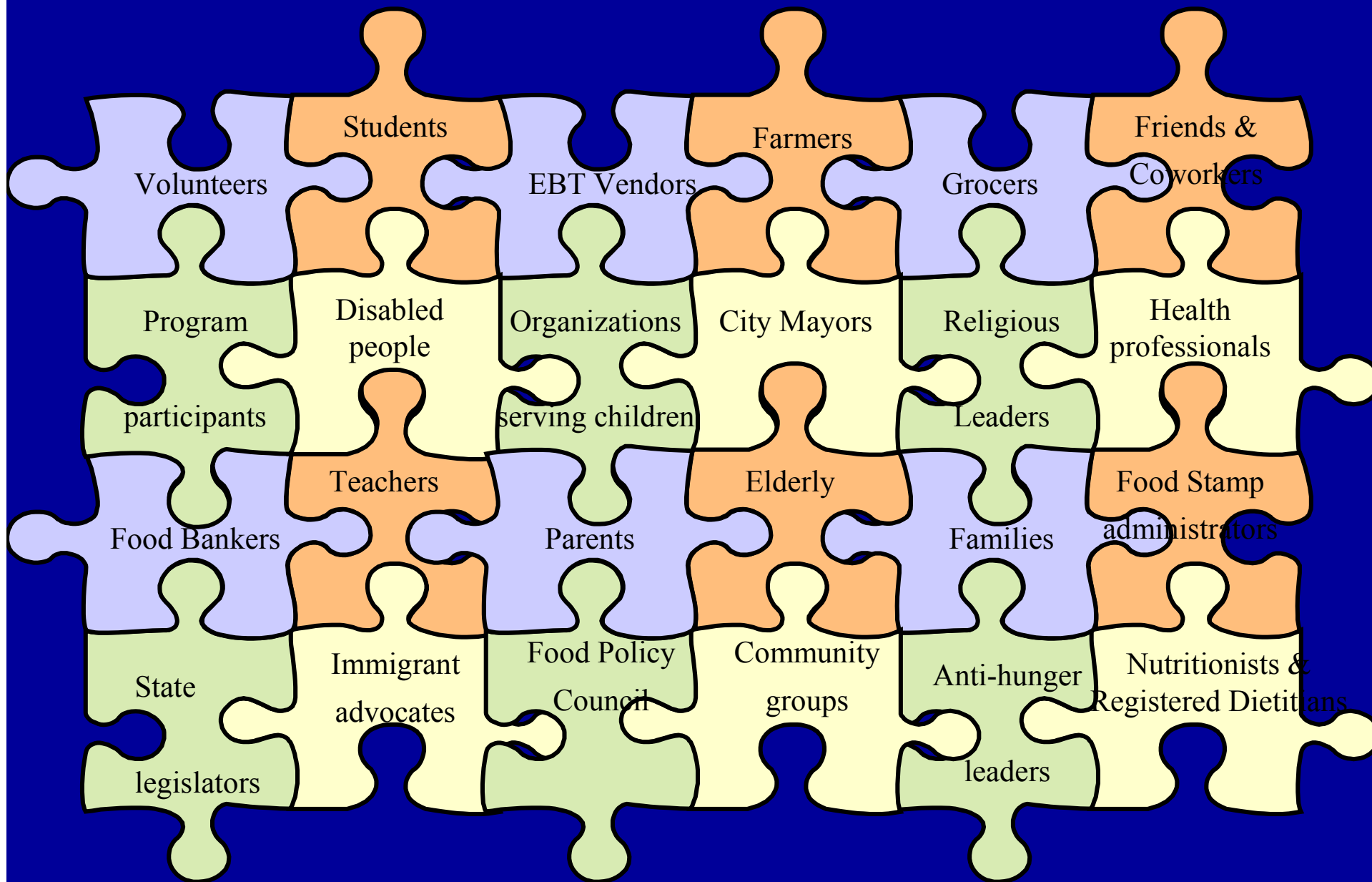
- 21 Acres
- Cascade Harvest Coalition
- Community Food Co-op
- Here & Now Ventures
- Friends of the Farmers' Market
- King County government
- Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance
- New Priorities Foundation
- PCC Natural Markets

# FFPP – Seeking Balance in the U.S. Farm and Food Policy



- Seattle/King County Acting Food Policy Council
- Small Potatoes Gleaning Project
- Spokane Sustainable Community Action
- Spokane Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Team (SALT)
- The Washington State Farmers Market Association (WSFMA)
- Washington State Food and Nutrition Council
- Washington Sustainable Food and Farming Network
- WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources

# There are Many Stakeholders

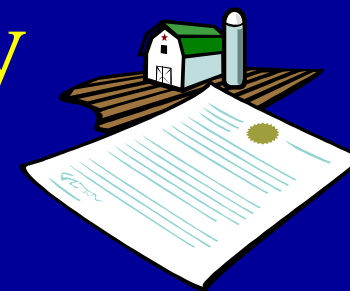


# Washington State Food & Nutrition Council



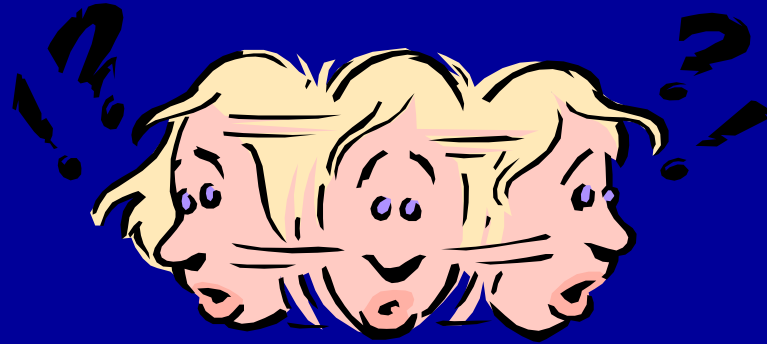
- **Mission of the Council:** *Advocates for food, agriculture, and nutrition programs, services, and education. The Council enhances its members' and the general public's ability to discern nutrition issues and related public policy issues which impact the lives of Washington state residents.*

# Acting Seattle/King County Food Policy Council



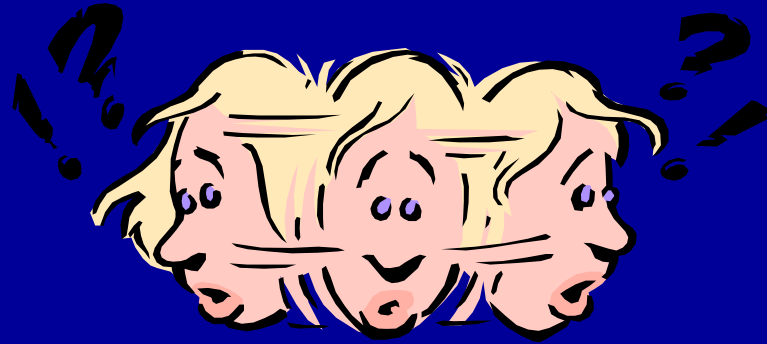
- A diverse group of stakeholders comprehensively examining our local food system in order to develop integrated food and agriculture policy recommendations and improvement projects.
- Mission of the Council: The Seattle/KC Food Policy Council partners with community, business, agriculture, and government to develop integrated policy and action for a food system that supports healthy people, communities, economies, and environment.

# What can You do?



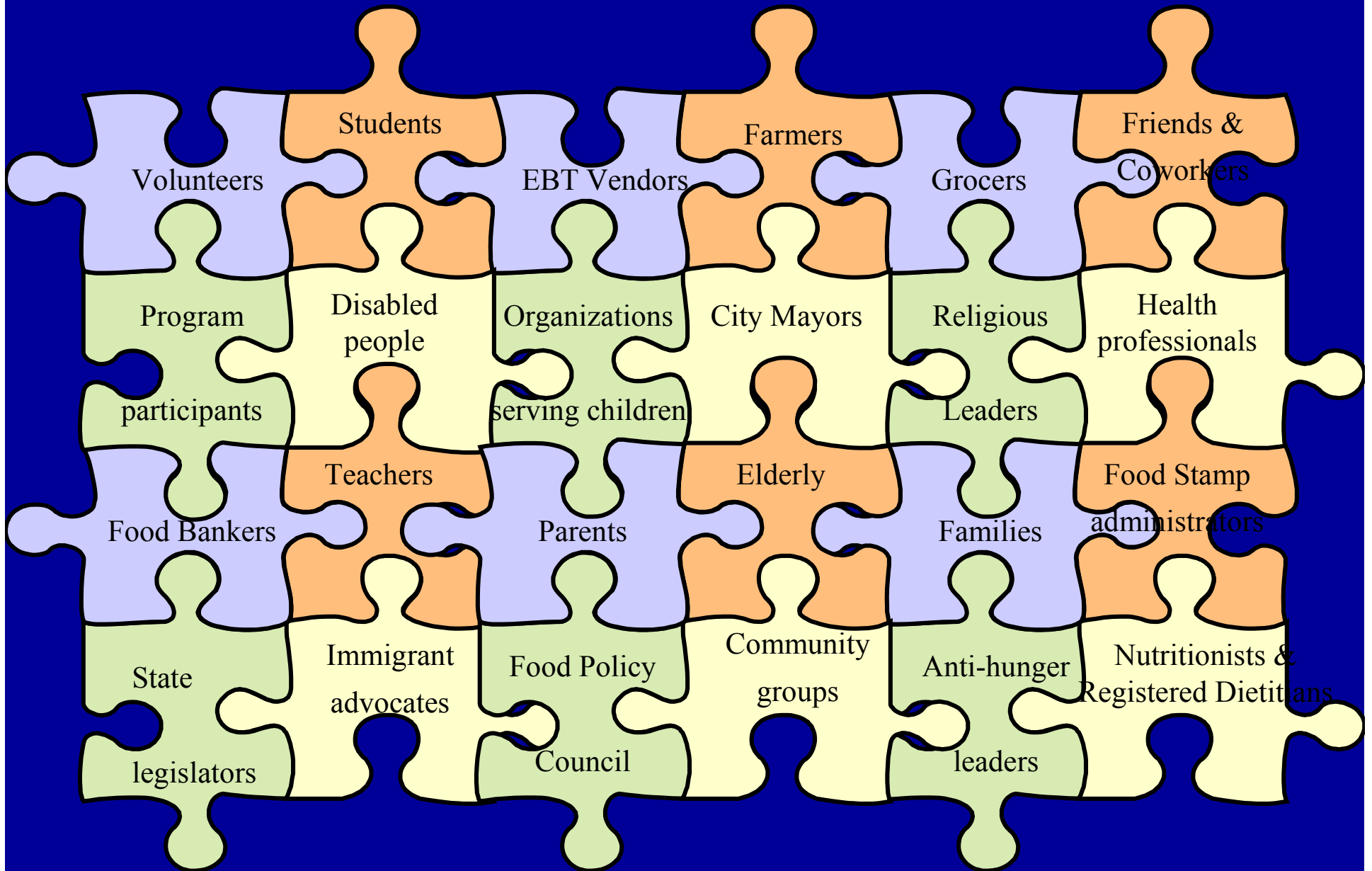
- Contact your Senators and Representatives
- Sign on in support of an organization's Farm Bill Priorities
- Start a Farm Bill study session in your community
- Share your 2007 Farm Bill suggestions and feedback with Children's Alliance, FRAC, or other advocates
- Write a letter to the editor

# What can You do?



- Contact Committee Members and your Senators and Representatives
- Sign on in support of an organization's Farm Bill Priorities
- Share your 2007 Farm Bill suggestions and feedback with Community Food Security Coalition, American Farmland Trust, FRAC, or other advocates

# Encourage Others to Get Involved!!

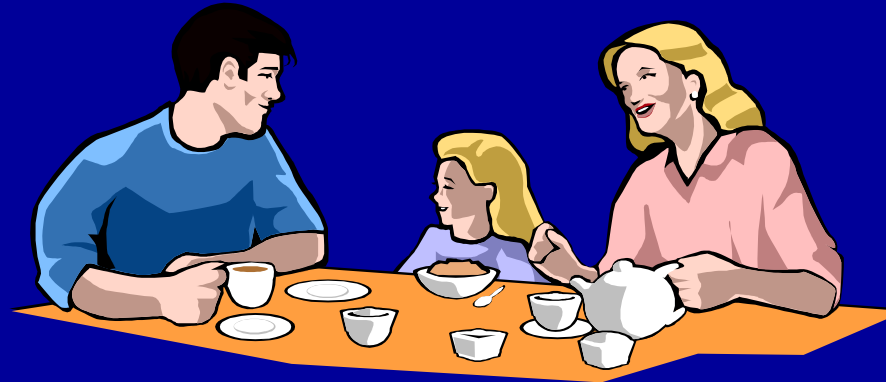


# Helpful Resources:



- Community Food Security Coalition
- Food & Farm Policy Project
- American Dietetic Association's Hunger and Environmental Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group
- Food Research and Action Coalition (FRAC)
- [www.wsfnc.org](http://www.wsfnc.org)

# Thank You!



Your voice is needed to help secure funding and  
create changes to the Farm Bill in 2007!

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